

more recently with the Laval University, I may be said to necessarily hold a somewhat divided allegiance to any other; but the relationships do not imply any conflict in my case; and the distinction or compliment of an honorary degree from this seat of learning is all the more in that it comes from the recipient's own country. If it be true that the prophet hath no honor in his own land, it is a conjecture within yearly experience that the average honor graduate hath less chance of distinction at home than abroad. I sincerely thank you for the honor and hope that I am in a measure come up to the expectations you have formed of me when granting it.

I rejoice to belong to this institution, because it is striving to reach the ideal of a true university. The principles which underlie this and every other Catholic seat of learning wherein the different faculties revolve under the central and controlling influence of the Church, are the only true and logical principles of any great university; and to no other system of education can any intelligent Catholic give his approval. In times past, but still recent, it was the fashion when the state had control of a university, that the President or head looked mainly after his own department, and that his assistants expounded their own particular views to the students without regard to the views of each other or to those of the President. And so the evolutionist, for example, in lecturing in one room was at liberty to make light of the Holy Scriptures that were being deciphered by a Hebraist in another room; and these were confounded in a third room by the Metaphysician. It mattered little in such a place if the Mathematician were an atheist, as he couldn't possibly corrupt the multiplication table, or that the Professor of Chemistry was a Jew or Gentile as his religion or the want of it, wouldn't affect the laws on the action of heat, or the number of elementary bodies in nature. With such guides as these and with no central or controlling authority it is little wonder if that system of so-called education gave rise to a generation that thinks as highly of human science and as lightly of divine science as does the state-educated generation of to-day. Such is the fact, however, and whether or not the State School is a thing of the past, it has been tried and found wanting; and accordingly thoughtful men have cast their eyes about them

for some other system of higher education.

And now the experiment to be tried is that a university shall consist of a number of radiating colleges, the centre one being State supported, colorless, and adapted to every form of denomination, and possibly in the future, when liberal principles will have swung around the circle, adapting itself to, and welcoming Turk, Jew, and Atheist within its liberal and capacious heart. In so far as the adhering denominations profit by any central state institution it is to that extent an endowment for them; in so far as the whole scheme is not available to any particular class of citizens or denominations, it is an injury to the latter as being in part supported by them with no advantage in return. I do not believe that this motley conception of a university,—this merry-go-round of denominations,—this variegated May-pole of educational dancers, can stand even among denominations whose ministers can exchange pulpits on a Sunday; but I admit that many will use it as far as they please and in so far as it is safe for them to use it. The State which has no religion has no power in this respect over its own original creation; nor has it any check by arrangement on these planetary colleges; and so the chances of confusion and of misguided intellectual training are greater in the present experiment than in the former one.

Turning from these erroneous conceptions of education and of an university, it is a relief so see the firm and logical foundations upon which rest this and other Catholic Universities. Here there is harmony, there is respect for the Sacred Scriptures, there is no conflict of teaching, there are no opposite positions presented before the young student—Here is a solid education. The ground which the Church has always taken that human education is to be guarded by true religion is an unsailable one; and surely the higher you go in education the greater need of incontrovertible advice and direction. I hail, therefore, with pride any connection that binds me to an institution that can instruct and educate in the true sense of the words; and I hope that Ottawa University will go and prosper in its great work in this country.

On the evening of June 17th the distribution of premiums took place. The